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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 506
By Cooper B

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. Willie W. Herenton for his
honorable and astute service to the people of
the city of Memphis as mayor.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to
specially recognize those public servants who have dedicated their professional careers and
personal excellence to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Memphis Mayor Dr. Willie Herenton is one such estimable person who
evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Willie Herenton is a graduate of both LeMoyne-Owen College and Memphis
State University, and earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree from Southern Illinois University;
and

WHEREAS, the African American People's Organization Consensus process resulted in
the nomination of W.W. Herenton for Mayor of Memphis out of a field of three major candidates
on April 27, 1991; and

WHEREAS, on October 3rd, 1991, Dr. Herenton became the first African American
mayor elected in Memphis; and

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WHEREAS, during his exemplary tenure as the city's mayor, Dr. Herenton has astutely fulfilled his primary responsibility of enforcing the provisions of law under Memphis' charter and city ordinances; additionally, he is responsible for the efficient delivery of government services, along with the supervision of 6,000 public employees from thirteen major divisions and he excelled in each of these duties; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Herenton has been the distinguished recipient of numerous awards recognizing his proficient mayoral leadership, even a brief list of which is inspiring: he has received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Rhodes College and an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from Christian Brothers College, and was named alumnus of the year from LeMoyne-Owen College in 1976; and

WHEREAS, prior to his tenure as mayor of Memphis, Dr. Herenton served as the most proficient and astute Superintendent of the Memphis City School System, overseeing the fifteenth largest education system in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Herenton has devoted his time and talents to the great benefit of the people of Memphis in numerous professional, educational, and voluntary capacities; in 1973, he was deservedly selected as one of the top ten minority school administrators nationwide to participate in the Rockefeller Foundation's Superintendency Training Program; as a Rockefeller Fellow, he interned in the offices of the superintendents of the Baltimore and District of Columbia public schools; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Herenton has served on several civic and corporate boards, including Promus Companies, Incorporated and First Tennessee National Corporation, the National Board of Directors of the Urban League, Junior Achievement and the National Executive Board of the National Conference of Christians and Jews; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Willie W. Herenton has distinguished himself as an elected leader of the highest order and an exceptional asset to the extremely tight-knit Memphis community as exemplified by his dedication to ensuring that the economic blessings of the city are equally shared by all its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Herenton's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Herenton is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant and reliable administrator; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Dr. Herenton is fortunate to share love with and devote himself to his three children, Errol, Rodney, and Andrea; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Willie Herenton is committed to the noble precepts of public service, and his character is best described by the Ghanaian Adinkra moon symbol **Osram (o-srahm)**; it symbolizes faith, patience, understanding, and determination, and is used to describe a leader, his influence, and his effectiveness, speaking to how a leader's abilities increase similar to the brightness of the moon as it waxes full, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby commend the Honorable Dr. Willie W. Herenton for his admirable and astute service to the good people of Memphis as its first African American mayor, a great accomplishment of which this legislative body and his constituents are most proud.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.